

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation that, in the latest Office Action of May 2, 2007, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-15, 19 and 20 were allowed. However, claims 16-18 and 21
5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0146923 A1 (“Nakahira et al.”)

As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully notes that claim 21 is
dependent on the allowed independent claim 1. Thus, the claim 21 should be allowed
10 for at the same reasons as the allowed independent claim 1.

With respect to the rejection of claims 16-18, Applicant has amended the
independent claim 16 to be similar in some respect to the allowed independent claims
1 and 9 in order to place these claims in condition for allowance. That is, the
15 independent claim 16 has been amended to include the indicated allowable subject
matter, as explained on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. In particular, the amended
independent claim 16 now recites “*storing a signal on a control terminal of an output
transistor from a previous operating cycle in which the output transistor was
activated in a memory as a stored signal, said memory being operatively connected to
20 said control terminal of said output transistor.*” Since the cited references fail to
teach “a memory connected to said control terminal of said output transistor, said
memory being configured to store a signal on said control terminal from a previous
cycle in which said output transistor was activated,” as explained on pages 3 and 4 of
the Office Action, the cited references also fail to teach “*storing a signal on a control
25 terminal of an output transistor from a previous operating cycle in which the output
transistor was activated in a memory as a stored signal, said memory being
operatively connected to said control terminal of said output transistor,*” as recited in
the amended independent claim 16.

30 Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the amended independent claim 16 is
allowable for similar reasons as the allowed independent claims 1 and 10.
Furthermore, since claims 17 and 18 depend on the amended independent claim 16,
these dependent claims are allowable for at the same reasons as the amended

independent claim 16. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the amended independent claim 16, as well as the dependent claims 17 and 18, be allowed.

5 Applicant respectfully requests that the claim amendments with respect to claim 16 be entered since the amended independent claim 16 requires only a cursory review by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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15 Date: June 29, 2007

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